Status Report of Railway projects

2203. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has submitted a Status Report on Railway Projects;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof; and

(c) steps to be taken by the Ministry to complete the pending projects and to avoid cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA):(a) and (b) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation prepares a monthly flash report of projects and other works costing Rs.100 crore & above and a quarterly status report costing Rs.20 crore & above. The quarterly report of October-December 2002 and monthly report of June 2003 has been received in the Ministry. As per their report, there are 176 projects and other railway works on the monitoring system. The reports mention about time and cost overrun on these projects. The project-wise details have also been given.

(c) Railways have a heavy throw-forward of on going projects with limited availability of resources. The time and cost overrun is not feasible to be calculated in such a case where matching availability of funds is not assured. The targets of completion of projects are being fixed from year to year keeping in view the progress of works and availability of resources. However, a number of investment initiatives have been taken in the past few years and additional funds have been generated which is likely to expedite completion of the projects.

Doubling project between Tundla and Yamuna Bridge

2204. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no techno-economic survey has been done for the doubling project between Tundla and Yamuna Bridge, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the entire capital investment of nearly 20 crore has been rendered unproductive as it failed to enhance the charted capacity in the line, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA):(a) No, Sir.

(b) The work of Tundla-Yamuna bridge was included in the budget in 1995-96. In phase-I, doubling of Tundla-Etmadpur has been completed. The doubling on phase-II is yet to be taken up.

Approval of Planning Commission for Rail Projects

2205. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mandatory approval from the Planning Commission is required for railway projects of Rs.50 crore and above;

(b) if so, whether the mandatory clearance has been obtained before sanctioning the project 'Neora-Shekhpura Rail Line' in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA):(a) No, Sir. However, projects costing Rs.100 crore and above are required to be only appraised by Planning Commission. The limit was earlier Rs.50 crore which has since been raised to Rs.100 crore.

(b) and (c) The work of new line from Daniawan to Biharsharif was approved as material modification of Fatuha-Islampur project basically to have connectivity between the two branch lines *i.e.* Fatuha-Islampur and Bakhtiarpur-Rajgir. Later on, in the year 2000-01, the work of Biharsharif-Barbigha was approved as material modification to the project. Meanwhile, an additional traffic of about 7-8 trains per day was assessed to move *via* Kuil-Mughalsarai. Due to severe capacity constraints *via* Patna, the feasibility of providing an alternative route by construction of the missing links to the already sanctioned Daniawan-Biharsharif-Barbigha was examined. It was considered that with the construction of Barbigha-Sheikhpura and Daniawant-Neora, an alternative route from Kiul to Mugalsarai *via* Sheikhpura, Daniawan,